

## CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for determining primary and restoration paths for a new service in a mesh network having a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of links, the method comprising:

for each of a plurality of candidate path pairs for the new service, each candidate path pair comprising a candidate primary path and a candidate restoration path for the new service, generating a path cost associated with said each candidate path pair, wherein the path cost for a candidate path pair is a function of sharability of one or more links within the corresponding candidate restoration path; and

selecting the primary and restoration paths for the new service from the plurality of candidate path pairs based on the path cost of each candidate path pair.

2. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein generating the path cost for each candidate path pair comprises:

generating a link cost associated with each link in the corresponding candidate restoration path; and

generating the path cost as a function of a sum of the link costs for all links in the candidate restoration path.

3. (original) The invention of claim 2, wherein, for each link, generating the link cost comprises:

determining whether sharing is available on the link; and

if sharing is available, then generating the link cost as a function of a sharing degree for the link.

4. (original) The invention of claim 3, wherein, if sharing is not available, then:

determining whether utilization of the link is greater than a specified threshold;

if the link utilization is greater than the specified threshold, then generating the link cost as a function of an administrative weight for the link and available capacity on the link; and

if the link utilization is less than the specified threshold, then generating the link cost as a function of the administrative weight for the link.

5. (original) The invention of claim 3, wherein the link cost is also generated as a function of an administrative weight for the link.

6. (original) The invention of claim 3, wherein the link cost is also generated as a function of a form of a sharing degree.

7. (currently amended) The invention of claim 3, wherein the form of the sharing degree is an approximation to the sharing degree that is calculated using a binary representation of a node-link vector and a binary representation of a primary path node-link vector, wherein the calculation of the approximation sharing degree comprises:

computing the bitwise AND of the binary representation of the node-link vector and the binary representation of the primary path node-link vector, and

computing the OR of all elements of the resulting vector to determine whether sharing is possible.

8. (original) The invention of claim 1, wherein the sharability of a link in a candidate restoration path is represented by a sharing degree for the link, wherein the sharing degree is a maximum number of additional unit-bandwidth primary services that can be added to the candidate primary path without increasing restoration bandwidth reserved on the link.

9. (original) The invention of claim 8, wherein the sharing degree SD for a link is given by:

SD = the maximum value  $m$  for which  $\max\{m \cdot V_{pnf} + V_{nla}\} = RB$ ,

wherein:

$V_{pnf}$  is a primary path node-link vector for the corresponding candidate primary path;

$V_{nla}$  is an aggregate node-link vector for the link; and

RB is current reservation bandwidth on the link.

10. (original) The invention of claim 8, wherein the sharing degree SD for a link is given by:

SD = the maximum value  $m$  for which  $\max\{m \cdot V_{pn} + V_{na}\} = RB$ ,

3 wherein:  
4  $V_{pn}$  is a primary path node vector for the corresponding candidate primary path;  
5  $V_{na}$  is a node-aggregate vector for the link; and  
6 RB is current reservation bandwidth on the link.

1 11. (currently amended) A network manager for a mesh network having a plurality of nodes  
2 interconnected by a plurality of links, the network manager adapted to determine primary and  
3 restoration paths for a new service in a mesh network, wherein:

4 for each of a plurality of candidate path pairs for the new service, each candidate path pair  
5 comprising a candidate primary path and a candidate restoration path for the new service, the  
6 network manager is adapted to generate a path cost associated with said each candidate path pair,  
7 wherein the path cost for a candidate path pair is a function of sharability of one or more links  
8 within the corresponding candidate restoration path; and

9 the network manager is adapted to select the primary and restoration paths for the new  
10 service from the plurality of candidate path pairs based on the path cost of each candidate path  
11 pair.

1 12. (original) The invention of claim 11, wherein the network manager is distributed over the  
2 network.

1 13. (original) The invention of claim 11, wherein the network manager is located at a single  
2 node of the network.

1 14. (new) The invention of claim 1, wherein the path cost is independent of the sharability of  
2 any link within the corresponding candidate primary path.

1 15. (new) The invention of claim 2, wherein the candidate restoration path comprises at least  
2 two links.

1 16. (new) The invention of claim 4, wherein:

2 if the link utilization is greater than the specified threshold, then generating the link cost in  
3 accordance with the formula  $\omega^{NS} = \frac{AW \cdot MWC}{AC^f}$ , wherein  $\omega^{NS}$  is the link cost when sharing is not  
4 considered,  $AW$  is an administrative weight for the link,  $MWC$  is a maximum weight coefficient,  
5  $AC$  is available capacity for the link, and  $f$  is an exponentiation factor; and  
6 if the link utilization is less than the specified threshold, then generating the link cost in  
7 accordance with the formula  $\omega^{NS} = AW$ .

1 17. (new) The invention of claim 7, wherein the binary representation of the node-link vector  
2 and the binary representation of the primary path node-link vector each have a plurality of entries  
3 corresponding to the nodes and links in the network and each entry of each vector identifies  
4 whether failure of the corresponding node or link will cause activation of all the bandwidth that  
5 was reserved for restoration paths on the link.